



LIBRARY



Borough of Kendal.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1942

KENDAL:

TITUS WILSON AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

1943.



Borough of Kendal.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1942

KENDAL:

TITUS WILSON AND SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

1943.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Kendal.

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Borough during the year 1942.

This Report is issued in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health which require economy in the matter of paper and that such reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected Public Health.

I am much indebted to the help I have received from the School Medical Officers of the County in carrying out immunization against Diphtheria and tend to them my thanks.

Should you desire any further particulars, I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

7th June, 1943.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1942.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.8
„ England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.8
Still Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Death Rate,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10.7
„ England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	Deaths.	Death Rate.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	1	4.2
Total	1	4.2

Maternal Mortality Rate, England and Wales 2.01

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	57.5
Legitimate Infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	52.6
Illegitimate Infants	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
„ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The largest numbers of deaths from any one Cause were:—

Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	..	30

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Special Monday Clinic for evacuee children referred to in my previous report was discontinued on 26th January owing to the number of evacuees who had returned to their homes but it was soon apparent that the ante-natal cases were so increasing that they could not be adequately dealt with at the same Clinic as the children; therefore a weekly Clinic was opened for such on 16th June.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Number of times the Centre has been opened	..	..		100
„ babies under 1 year attending	..	..	126	
„ children 1-5 years attending	..	..	146	272
„ attendances of babies	..	..	792	} 2114
„ „ children	..	..	867	
„ „ mothers	..	..	76	
„ „ expectant mothers	..	..	340	
„ „ post-natal mothers	..	..	39	
Number of Mothers admitted to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act	..	..	..	33

The attendance of children at the Wednesday Clinic has been considerably reduced owing to the fact that the Government issue of Vitamins has in a large measure replaced Virol for which mothers attended with their children, and so the regular inspection of such children has been interfered with; whether this is an advantage or not remains to be seen.

The Mother's Clinic has not been utilised to any great extent, seven mothers attending and of these four were from Areas outside Kendal.

A War Nursery was opened at Abbot Hall in the middle of September for children under five years of age and 104 medical inspections have been made there.

SUMMARY OF NURSE METCALFE'S WORK:—

First visits to babies under 1 year	169	} 2649
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	894
Visits to children 1-5 years	..	..	..	1008
First visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	57
Subsequent visits	..	..	..	202
Still-birth enquiries	..	..	..	9
Infant Death enquiries	..	..	..	10
Visits to Institutions	..	..	..	9
Attendances at Centre	..	..	..	56
„ Ante-natal Clinic	..	..	..	21
„ Mothers' Clinic	..	..	..	13
„ Immunization Clinic	..	..	..	13
„ Orthopaedic Clinic	..	..	..	2
„ for Vitamin Issues	..	..	..	94
Lessons and examinations at Rose Cottage	..	..	..	76
Tuberculosis enquiries	..	..	..	16

DENTAL TREATMENT.

There have been 43 mothers treated under this Scheme as follows:—

Fillings	23	} 251
Extractions	140	
Local Anaesthetics	16	
General Anaesthetics	6	
Dentures supplied	21	
Other treatments	45	

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS.

Prematurity	Congenital Diseases	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Appendicitis	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	Diarrhoea	Other Causes	Total
3	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	13

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Under 1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
4	2	1	—	7	3	3	—	—	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The total rainfall at Fisher Tarn was 46.09 inches.

At the commencement of the year there was 99 days supply; the oil driven pump at Mints Feet was not used during the year but the electrically driven one was operated from January to August; at the close of the year there was 166 days supply in hand.

Bolefoot tank was cleaned out, scraped and cement washed and Mints Feet Well was weeded twice. Chlorination Plant was installed at Fisher Tarn in August, so that now all sources of supply are treated in this way.

Monthly bacteriological examinations of the public supplies have been made and these have been satisfactory.

There have been no extensions in Housing, Water Supplies or Sewerage and the system of Public Cleansing remains the same, but under the Defence Regulations 68 A.A. 28 houses have now been made sufficiently fit for habitation and temporary licences granted.

Several cases of overcrowding, due to the billeting of evacuees were discovered, particularly in houses on the Council's housing estates. In most cases these were persons who had billeted themselves. Where there is plenty of ventilation and air space surrounding, this, as a purely temporary measure, is not too serious, but in certain cases steps had to be taken to have people re-billeted where there was more accommodation.

In only one case was bug-infestation found in a Council house, and here it was definitely proved that the infestation had arisen from furniture which the tenant had had in store prior to his occupancy of the house.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

152 samples were taken from dealers who deliver milk in Kendal. Details of analyses of these are as followings:—

1.	GOOD.			
	Samples complying with both tests	..	..	60 or 40%

2. MODERATE.

Samples complying with one test only 13 or 8%

3. POOR.

Samples which complied with neither test 79 or 52%

These results are more favourable than those of last year.

MEAT.

At the Public Slaughterhouse the following animals were slaughtered:

Beasts	1993
Sheep	33,421
Pigs	160
Calves	4,224
	<hr/>
	39,798
	<hr/>

In 1939 (when there was no control), 12,738 animals were slaughtered.

1940 was first year of control, during which year 29,063 animals were slaughtered and in 1941, 49,307.

CASUALTY ANIMALS.

Reference was made in last year's report concerning the class of animals known as "casualties."

During 1942 a complaint was received from the Butchers Retail Buying Committee protesting against casualty animals (including beasts under the Tuberculosis Orders) being slaughtered alongside ordinary animals purchased by the Ministry of Food in the Auction Mart.

The matter was taken up with the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and the Chief Sanitary Inspector met representatives from both Ministries.

As a result of this interview certain improvements have been effected.

Although the position has improved with regard to casualties, quite a number of farmers still send cattle for slaughter with obviously no food value attached thereto.

The following meat was deposited at the Public Abattoir for distribution, Slaughter having taken place either at home or abroad.

(a) HOME KILLED.

16 Beasts; 466 Sheep; 5 Calves; 13 Pigs; 3,040 Pigs heads.

Of this it was found necessary to reject the following:—

Total Offal of cow (decomposition).

Pig's head and hind leg (abscesses).

Carcase of pig (tuberculosis).

„ (putrefaction).

„ (putrefaction and uraemia).

2 Carcases of pig (dropsical and inflammatory condition).

Carcase of pig (dropsy).

„ sheep (putrefaction).

„ calf (uraemia).

137 Pigs' heads (tuberculosis).

(b) IMPORTED.

20 Beasts.

60 Pigs' heads.

325 Pigs.

2446 Quarters of Beef.

113 Boneless Quarters of Beef.

8222 Sheep and Lambs.

56 Bags of Boneless Beef.

5 Bags of Boneless Veal.

919 Bags of Offal.

173 Bags of Pork Loins.

66 Bags of Miscellaneous Cuts.

121 Bags of Fillets.

14 Boxes Pork Bellies.

172 Bags of Boneless Pork.

5111 Tins of Pork and Beef.

Of this it was found necessary to reject the following:—

310 lbs. Beef (Bone Taint).

71 Tins of Pork.

33 Tins of Beef.

A certain amount of food was condemned in shops or warehouses on account of decomposition or damage in transit.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	942	1051	4224	33421	160
Number inspected ..	942	1051	4224	33421	160
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	11	25	42	89	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	*31	*49	—	†342	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	4.4%	4.6%	0.9%	1.2%	6.2%
TUBERCULOSIS. Whole carcasses condemned	9	47	2	—	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	83	273	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.7%	30%	0.04%	—	25.6%

Notes. *624 livers affected with distomatosis, etc. are not included, no distinguishing of sexes being kept.

†Not included in these figures are 2,872 livers affected with distomatosis.

ADULTERATIONS, ETC. & CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is carried out by Mr. W. H. Roberts, M.Sc., F.I.C. of Liverpool.

The County Council has delegated to the Borough the functions of procuring samples for analysis or examination.

101 samples of food were taken for analysis, as detailed below:—

Article	No. of Samples	Result	Remarks
Milk	60	Genuine	
„	4	„	Milks of abnormal Composition
„	2	Deficient in Fat	Vendors warned
„	1	Slightly watered	Vendor warned
„	3	Watered	Vendor warned
„	1	14% added water	Prosecution— Vendor fined £20
„	1	9% added water	Prosecution— Vendor fined £2
National Wheatmeal Flour	1	Genuine	
Coffee	3	„	
Essence of Lemon ..	1	„	
Saccharine Tablets ..	2	„	
Egrol	1	„	
Sweetened Custard Powder	1	„	
Peanut Butter ..	1	„	
Rice Custard Powder	2	„	
Bicarbonate of Soda ..	1	„	
Lemon Substitute ..	1	„	
National Household Milk	1	„	
Tinned Peas	2	„	
Pure Dried Eggs ..	1	„	
Real Egg Self Raising Flour	1	„	
Forcemeat	2	„	

Article	No. of Samples	Result.	Remarks
Cornflour	I	Genuine	Taken at request of Ministry of Home Security
Fruited Wafer Bran ..	I	„	
White Pepper	I	„	
Green Ginger Wine ..	I	„	
Chocolate Sweet Sauce	I	„	
Anti-Gas Ointment No. 2	3	„	

In the milks the highest fat content was 4.5 per cent. and the highest non-fatty solids was 9.2 per cent.

The average percentage of milk fats and non-fatty solids in all milks (genuine and non-genuine) was 3.93 per cent. and 8.77 per cent. respectively).

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912.

	No. of samples examined for presence of preservative.	No of samples in which preservative was found.
Milk ..	72	Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was a considerable increase in the incidence of notifiable diseases especially with regard to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Of other diseases there were six cases of Erysipelas, four of Puerperal Pyrexia, three of which had come from outside the Borough for their confinements in Nursing Homes and only one from the Borough; one of those three died. There was one case of Pneumonia and one of Paratyphoid Fever, the origin of which was never discovered. No less than 32 cases of Scarlet Fever arose, one of which was a return case. The Diphtheria epidemic accounted for 54 cases, but two of these had contracted the disease elsewhere but developed it locally. The former half of the year was fairly free but the months of October, November and December had a bad record. Of these 54 cases no less than 16 had been immunised but 2 of these had not had sufficient time to secure protection and one was doubtful but thought that he had been done 7

years previously. With all the effort made to protect children against this disease, it is disappointing to get such results but it is gratifying to note that all these immunised cases presented a very mild type of disease, had not to have so long a hospital isolation and there were no deaths; amongst the non-immunised, 38 in number, there were many severe cases and five deaths. In considering the housing conditions, there were 12 houses in which people should not live and these had already been scheduled for clearance when the war put a stop to all such schemes; in addition to these there were seven houses in which overcrowding occurred. Ten houses had more than one case in them, 6 having 2 cases, 3 with 3 cases and one with 4; where there were immunised and non-immunised in the same house, it was interesting to see how the immunised escaped when the disease arose amongst the other inmates. It was difficult to trace some of the sources of infection but in two cases children who had not had the attention of doctors developed some post-diphtheritic paralysis; one of these had infected 7 others and the second one five. A small group of five children who were accustomed to play together suffered from the infection of one of their playmates.

Measles continued much as in the previous year, there being 63 cases, whilst Whooping Cough had affected only two.

There was some Chickenpox and Mumps with a slight amount of Dysentery.

The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital has been strained on account of the number of cases of Diphtheria which have been admitted and a certain number of suspects have been in the wards which should have been isolated in cubicles till the diagnosis was established; fortunately none of these actually contracted the disease; it is very evident that the need for an up-to-date Isolation Hospital should be met as soon as possible after the end of the War.

A special Clinic has been opened at the First Aid Post to deal with Scabies; this has been under the supervision of the School Nurse who has been assisted by members of the Kendal Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. There have been 77 sessions at which 225 cases have been treated involving 986 baths. At the end of the year there were only 10 cases on the list.

Immunization against Diphtheria with A.P.T. has been continued throughout the year and 394 pre-school and 589 school children have completed the treatment.

A Hostel for backward children aged 7 to 10 years has been established at Waverley House, Castle Street and another for problem children at West Bank to which Males under 10 and Females of any age are admitted.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE.

DISEASE.	Total.	Ages.												Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-		
Scarlet Fever ..	32	—	—	1	2	2	17	8	—	2	—	—	—	31	—
Diphtheria ..	54	—	3	2	4	6	25	9	2	1	1	1	—	54	5
Paratyphoid Fever ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	3	1
Erysipelas ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	—
Pneumonia ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ..	63	—	4	6	7	14	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	165	—	7	10	13	22	74	19	3	11	2	2	2	92	6

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	3	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	2	3	—	1	—	—	1	1
45	3	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	13	1	2	2	3	1	1

There were fewer cases of Tuberculosis notified than in the previous year, viz. 27 of which 24 were Pulmonary; 2 of these had contracted the disease during service with the Army; 4 of these died during the year. Of Non-pulmonary cases there was 1 each of Jaw, Glands and Abdomen; one of these died.

